

II. REMARKS

A. Regarding the specification

The specification is objected to because Figures 16 and 17 each show sequences that do not have the appropriate sequence identifiers. In response, Applicants have amended the description of these figures herein by adding these sequence identifiers. Moreover, because two of these sequences (shown in Figure 17) were not in the sequence listing, the listing has been amended herein and attached hereto in both paper and computer readable form.

B. Regarding the § 101 rejection

The claims have been rejected herein as allegedly directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Applicants have amended the independent claims to either recite the term “isolated” or “purified.” These amendments are supported in the specification, for example, at page 40, lines 11-13; page 57, lines 17-20; page 65, lines 11-18; and page 91, line 20. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

C. Regarding the § 112, second paragraph, rejection

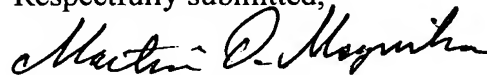
Claims 33, 42 and 50 are rejected as allegedly indefinite for reciting the phrase “wherein said polynucleotide is as set forth between nucleotides includes the coding region, nucleotides 594 to 2198, of SEQ ID NO:43, as shown in SEQ ID NO:45.” Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Applicants have amended each of these claims to recite that “said polynucleotide comprises nucleotides 594 to 2198, of SEQ ID NO:43.” Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

III. CONCLUSION

All of the issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed and are believed to have been overcome. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that all the claims under examination in the subject application are allowable. Therefore Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance to this effect.

Respectfully submitted,



Martin D. Moynihan

Registration No. 40,338

Date: June 29, 2006

Encl.:

Amended sequence listing (paper and computer readable forms)